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## S. G. Miller to H. R. Miller (27 April 1863)

Susan G. Miller

Hugh R. Miller

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all friends, & may God bless & protect you & Comfort  
you is the constant prayer of your (Monday evening)  
loving wife,  
J. S. Miller, Cumberland. April, 27<sup>th</sup> / 63.

My precious Husband,

Your most welcome  
letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> reached me on Friday. God  
only knows how thankfully it was received,  
what a comfort it was to see your well  
known hand writing once more, to read  
from your own pen that you & my precious  
boys were alive & well then. Oh I felt so thank-  
-ful for this - got the papers started heavy firing  
in the direction of Suffolk? & I am still anxious  
I'm thinking to hear from you again. I tried to  
write you twice last week but failed. I could  
not write under the dreadful uncertainty  
that our shadowed one was dead I feel much  
better prepared for the task today, & yet I  
cannot help feeling that if you are safe,  
you will feel better satisfied to have me  
write. I spoke of going down to Petersburg -  
but as your letter came that night, gave up the  
idea for a time again. God grant to have  
spared your lives & that you have been return-  
-ed to your encampment. And may I not  
hope soon to see you? If you cannot come to  
me, can I not go & see you for a little while  
at least? I do so long to see your dear faces  
once more. Each moment of danger my  
dear Husband, but makes you & my dear  
children more precious & every day but  
more how terrible the blow would be to  
lose you. Thank you for the effort you  
made under your trying situation to write



I fully appreciated it & deeply hoped for such a favor, as the Times-Papers had made me acquainted with your perilous situation.

My heart has ached for you my precious husband for having to bear amid your perils, the terrible news from home. I dreaded for you to hear it, for I knew full well how it would rend your heart, but am so thankful for the truly Christian submission you express under this heart-rending decree of Providence. I know how truly you were attached to dear Cousin John & how much you will miss him & how much all must feel his loss. Our Communion will be broken up indeed. Not a thought of our return home but what in some way seemed to be connected with him. His poor wife & children I know are well nigh heart-broken, & I seriously fear it will take Cousin Eliza's life. She is now at the period of life most critical to women. Surely the cries of such heart-broken wives will not be heard in vain & God will not much longer delay His vengeance. I have had no more letters from home & know none of the circumstances of the diabolical murder except as related in Anna's letter. I hope ere this you have received dear Sam's letter. Who but the wicked, one himself could have dared to commit such a murder & such outrages upon a man of our Cousin's standing? I feel that it must, it will be signally punished.

It appears from the Telegrams that Pontiac has again been visited by the fiercest. My heart sickens at the thought of what they may have done there. Oh Husband so far as I can see our prospects seem very gloomy. The glimmings of an early peace have vanished



I now am endless, cruel & savage seas  
looming up before us. My heart sinks at  
the thought. What will life be to those  
who are left, when all our loved ones are  
taken from us? Death to me would  
be a coveted boon. I have left it with  
you & my dear children to decide as to  
my returning to Missi. Since I have  
heard of Cousin John's death the  
thought of leaving you is more terrible  
than ever & I feel like crying with  
Ruth, "critical and not to leave thee."

I want to do whatever will please you  
my precious husband, not one more  
care would I add to your already full  
cup; but you & my children, are my all.  
My relations here make me welcome still  
I insist on my making this home, so long  
as you are in Va. Although the thought of  
dependence is so bitter, I feel that I can  
endure anything to be near you. They  
all send much love to you & my dear  
boys & say you must be certain to  
come & see them. The roads are now  
improving & it will not be quite so  
hard getting to & from the Railroad.

I have heard from my friends. The  
gentleman who has them writes me  
they are safe & he will take pleasure in  
keeping them until called for. If you  
find you cannot come here, can I not  
go & see you? I fear with you that there  
will be no chance for furloughs now.  
Has Col Mosely returned? I am so sorry



Many did not, and my cloth by John May. I have no doubt if the Yankees have been to Tentotaie but they got it. Gowns & the boys clothing are in a bad state by now. If cotton could be had as easily here as at home, I would go to work making cloth.

My health has improved for the last few days & I should be so glad to have something to do for you. Aunt & Cousin Nancy have knit some nice socks for you, & I will soon have the fourth pair done for you. I am again at Aunt Clark's, was out yesterday at Church for the first time since I came here. Sunday is the saddest of all days with me, I realize them most fully have completely we are all broken up. I have written to poor Cousin Eliza & hope as soon as you can, you will do so too.

Tell my dear Children to write to me, & to try to write home. It is such a relief to those at home to hear from them, they ought to try & afford them that satisfaction.

I know & feel what a task it is to write under the sad circumstances that surround them. Poor boys it is hard for their young lives to be going out in this way. Oh that God would hear our prayers & grant us peace. Were you ever dangerously wounded? I do so long to hear from you again. Can you get a letter under six days from you. These foraging expeditions are getting to be sad affairs. Write to me dear husband what you think of our prospects now. Take care of yourself & my precious Children. Give my love to them & Patrick & remember me to



Sunny Side  
April 27<sup>th</sup> 63

Col. Hugh R. Miller,  
42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Miss.  
Franklin,  
Sentrampton Co.,  
Virginia.